

obstruction, the author makes the very practical statement that local anesthesia is indicated because of the additional danger of the inhalation, of the excess of mucus excited by chloroform or ether, which, because of the obstruction, cannot be swallowed.

The illustrations are excellent. The index is complete; and the whole is a handsome example of book-making.

NEWTON JAMES.

*LA SUTURE INTESTINALE. Histoire des Différents Procédés d'Enterorrhaphie. Par FELIX TERRIER, Professeur de Médecine Opératoire a la Faculté de Médecine, etc., et MARCEL BAUDOUIN, Préparateur du Cours de Médecine Opératoire a la Faculté, etc. Paris: Institut de Bibliographie Scientifique, 1898.*

Under title of Intestinal Suture, Messieurs Terrier and Baudouin have prepared a volume of 415 pages of a somewhat novel, very interesting, and peculiarly valuable sort. Restricting their researches as the title indicates, they have with infinite labor gotten together a very large number of monographs, pamphlets, magazine, and text-book articles, complete so far as possible up to September, 1898, and going back to the scanty medical literature of the early Sanscrit. Reducing this mass to order, they have developed chronologically the growth of attempts at reuniting intestinal wounds from the primitive efforts of the early Indian and Arabian surgeons, who persuaded large black ants to close the wound with their powerful mandibles, and rewarded their efforts by tweaking off their bodies, so as to prevent a change of mind; through the successive employment of waxed silk left long and unknotted, so as to be withdrawn through the abdominal opening; of the artificial anus; of buried sutures; of unaided anastomosis; up to the epoch of mechanical approximation contrivances of which Murphy's button stands as the type. It is not the purpose of this brief notice to review or to criticise in detail the work under consideration, but rather to record its

chief features, pointing out, if possible, in what its value to surgery lies.

The first section, some 330 pages, comprises, as already mentioned, a brief illustrated description of almost all known methods of intestinal suture, the latter word being understood in its broadest sense. The arrangement is chronological, the account of each procedure comprising a careful summary of technique, and a description of the special instruments and material employed, together with, in almost all instances, an illustrative plate. It is proper at this point to recall what the authors insist on in their preface, namely, the difficulty of conveying by mere verbal description an accurate conception of even simple surgical procedures, and the necessity of clear and accurate illustrations. They call attention to the pains they have taken to provide photogravure copies of all obtainable original plates, while, where such are lacking, they offer specially prepared diagrams. The vast number of operative procedures on the intestine, many only modifications, is astonishing to one who has given no special thought to the subject, an instance in point being the number of implements similar to Murphy's button, of which no less than nineteen are figured! The prominence given to the work of Senn, Murphy, Abbe, and others cannot but be particularly pleasing to American readers.

A further section furnishes a synopsis arranged with reference to the nature of the operation,—a sort of rational topical method, of especial value for ready reference. This arrangement includes, for example, under the general heading of "Sutures Properly So-called," five sub-titles, under the first of which the various forms of artificial anus are collected, the individual operation appearing in its natural order of development by name, date, and author's name, with a number referring to its appropriate illustration in the text. Five such sections with their sub-topics cover the entire available literature on intestinal sutures.

The bibliography is presented in like methodical fashion,

first by years, then by methods, then by authors. It is peculiarly complete. A table of contents; an alphabetical list of authors, giving the pages where reference to their work may be found, and comprising over five hundred names; an index of contents and one of illustrations complete the volume.

It would seem that this book should be of great utility, not only to the general surgeon and those whose special work leads them more particularly into intestinal surgery, but also to the student who is desirous of obtaining information without the necessity of wading through a long list of volumes, with possible disappointment after all. Its value as a reference work cannot be doubted, for which reason a translation should be welcomed, that the book may be made generally available.

HENRY GOODWIN WEBSTER.

DIE KRANKHEITEN DER NÄGEL. By DR. JULIUS HELLER, Berlin. Pp. 274. Five photogravure plates and 65 illustrations in text. Berlin, 1900. August Hirschwald.

The casual contributions on affections of the nails that have appeared in current literature have found a grateful recognition in the author of this monograph. These, incorporated with the personal experiences of the author, gathered at the skin clinic of the late Professor Lewin of Berlin, have been grouped and classified so as to offer in this volume a veritable cyclopaedia on affections of the nails.

Though written by a dermatologist, the medical and surgical aspects have received equal attention, and a study of these pages is soon convincing that the nails, too, are the seat of all the ills that other human flesh is heir to.

The painstaking labor of the author is still further exemplified in the histological changes rendered throughout these pages. Numerous instructive illustrations add to the completeness of the treatise.